

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the final Office Action mailed on December 20, 2007. No fee is due in connection with this Response. The Director is authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-1818. If such a withdrawal is made, please indicate the Attorney Docket No. 112857-510 on the account statement.

Claims 15, 16, 18-24 and 29 are pending in this application. Claims 1-14 and 17 were previously cancelled and Claims 25-28 and 30 were previously withdrawn. In the Office Action, Claims 15, 16 and 18-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over U.S. Patent No. 6,961,952 to Takamori et al. ("*Takamori*") in view of Japanese Application 08/031133A to Nishikata ("*Nishikata*"). Claims 23, 24 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Japanese Application 2000-21113A to Miyake et al. ("*Miyake*") in view of *Takamori*. In response, Claims 15 and 23 have been amended. The amendments do not add new matter. In view of the amendments and/or for the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections are improper and should be withdrawn.

Regarding the obviousness rejection of Claims 15, 16 and 18-24 over *Takamori* in view of *Nishikata* and the obviousness rejection of Claims 23, 24 and 29 over *Miyake* in view of *Takamori*, Applicants believe these rejections are improper for at least the reasons set forth below.

Applicants have amended independent Claims 15 and 23 to recite, a periphery of the main cartridge body unit including a substantially semicircular arcuate section. The amendment is fully supported in the specification. For example, the curvature of the arcuate section allows for easy identification of the direction for inserting the disk into the main cartridge body unit. See, specification, page 15, line 11 to page 16, line 5. The arcuate section also reduces insertion error and allows for a reduction in size of the main cartridge body unit. See, specification, page 15, line 11 to page 16, line 5. In addition, the arcuate section allows for reliable insertion of the main body cartridge unit into a cartridge holder even when the main body cartridge unit is inserted into the cartridge holder at a significant angle. See, specification, page 43, line 17 to page 44, line 10.

Applicants respectfully submit that, even if combinable, all of the claimed elements are not taught or suggested by the cited references. *Takamori*, *Nishikata* and *Miyake* all fail to disclose or suggest a periphery of the main cartridge body unit including a substantially semicircular arcuate section as required, in part, by Claims 15 and 23. Instead, *Takamori*, *Nishikata* and *Miyake* are all drawn to main cartridge body units having substantially angular peripheries. See, *Takamori*, Figures 3E-28F; *Nishikata*, Figures 1-4 and 6-8; and *Miyake*, Figures 5-9, 13 and 14. Thus, the cited references fail to disclose all the elements as amended.

For at least the reasons discussed above, even if combinable, the cited references do not teach, suggest, or even disclose all of the elements of independent Claims 15 and 23 as amended, and Claims 16, 18-22, 24 and 29 that depend therefrom, and thus fail to render the claimed subject matter obvious.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the obviousness rejections with respect to Claims 15, 16, 18-24 and 29 be reconsidered and the rejections be withdrawn.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified patent application and earnestly solicit an early allowance of same.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLP

BY 

Thomas C. Basso
Reg. No. 46,541
Cust. No. 29175

Dated: March 19, 2008